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us the most southern locality yet known, and illustrates its characters with some very good figures. Will not some of the naturalists of Mexico give us an account of the metamorphoses of the *real Siredon*, the *S. mexicanus*, from the city of Mexico? No one has yet described it, if any there be.—*E. D. Cope.*

LOTA MACULOSA IN THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER.—About twenty years ago Mr. J. M. M. Gernerd caught a specimen of this fish in a net at Muncy, Lycoming county, Penna. He preserved it in his collection and recently sent it to Philadelphia. It is about a foot long. Mr. Gernerd says that he has fished a great deal, but has never seen another specimen. It has not been previously recorded from the Susquehanna river.—*E. D. Cope.*

## ANTHROPOLOGY.[1]

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS.—The paper following that of Dr. Topinard, in the *Bulletin* of the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris for 1878, pp. 66–92, is by Dr. Paul Broca, the distinguished anatomist, upon the indices of breadth in the scapula of man, the apes, and the series of mammals. Three tables of indices close the communication. To M. Broca, perhaps, more than to any other anatomist living or dead, we are indebted for the application of rigorous methods and instruments of precision to various parts of the skeleton, which are likely to yield precious results in deciding the exact place of man in nature.

On page 104, M. Gustave Le Bon discusses the inequality of the corresponding regions of the cranium. The measures were taken on 300 skulls from different series in the collection of the Anthropological museum. Long ago students inquired whether the two hemispheres of the brain was equal, and Bichat considered that a default of symmetry was accompanied by a lack of rectitude in judgment. The autopsy of that illustrious anatomist, whose skull was exceedingly irregular, shows what a poor foundation we have for such a theory. In man most of the organs are more developed on the right side than on the left; but taking into consideration that the left portion of the brain presides over the functions of the right side of the body, we might suppose, *a priori*, that it is the left hemisphere of the brain which should be the most developed. Upon the 287 skulls that I have measured, in taking for a starting point the vertical plane passing through the external occipital protuberance and the prolongation of the median suture of the nasal bone, the following results obtained:

| | |
|---|---|
| Skulls where the right side predominates.................................... | 125 |
| " " " left " " .................................. | 111 |
| " " " different bones are unequal, but whose inequalities are compensatory ........................................................ | 51 |
| | 287 |

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[1] Edited by Prof. Otis T. Mason, Columbian College, Washington, D. C.

The foregoing observations demonstrate that the cranium, and therefore probably the brain whose form it reproduces, presents a lack of symmetry which is not of the same character for each of its parts.

On page 121, Dr. Le Bon describes a very simple anthropometric instrument, which he calls the pocket cephalometer, or compass of co-ordinates, designed to obtain very rapidly the different diameters, angles, and profiles of the head, and to reproduce in relief any solid figure whatever. A description of this instrument without drawings would hardly define it; we must therefore refer our readers to the paper of Dr. Le Bon.

On page 161, Dr. Thulié gives an account of the autopsy of Louis Asseline, a member of the Société d'Anthropologie and of the Société d'Autopsie Mutuelle. Asseline was 49 years old when he died. In politics, he was a republican; in philosophy, a materialist. After his education was finished, he came to Paris, where he contributed more than all others towards propagating those ideas which resulted in the overturning of the empire. He was the founder and patron of several radical journals, and was frequently imprisoned for his writings. He was also in political life several times.

Asseline was a member of the Société d'Autopsie, composed of individuals who believe that the study of the brain of a man whom we have known, not only through his works, but in his character and faculties, would contribute to the advancement of science. The first subject of mutual autopsy was Jules Asséza, who, by the way, did not derive much benefit from the mutual clause in the society's constitution. The second was M. Asseline, whose autopsy occurred 39 hours after his decease. The brain weighed 1.468 grammes, which may be compared with Broca's table of means:

| | |
|---|---|
| From 31 to 40 years | 1.404 grammes. |
| From 41 to 50 years | 1.403 " |

Since Asseline was 49 years old, his brain-weight was considerably above the mean. The convolutions are large and thick. M. Broca on examining the brain, said "Ce n'est pas un cerveau fin, les circonvolutions sont épaisses, presque grossiéres." A remarkable fact, since that which characterized the intelligence of M. Asseline was an exquisite finesse pushed even to subtlety. There occurs upon this brain the *calotte*, regarded as a sign of inferiority by Gratiolet. Among the apes, indeed, the parieto-occipital fissure is profound; on the gorilla only M. Broca has observed this fissure to be deep on one side and superficial upon the other. This fissure is frequently deep in woman, as well as in some men of known intellectual mediocrity. In the brain of Asseline the *plis de passage* are profound, especially upon the left. This sign of inferiority should be studied; and we have a right to demand in the presence of this brain whose anterior parts are so developed and which correspond to eminent intellectual faculties, if the development of the *plis de passage* does not correspond with secondary faculties. The cranial calotte is extremely thin. It is not a senile regression. The cerebral depressions and the vascular furrows are very marked, as if the internal table had been thinned by the enlarging of the brain. The frontal suture is not entirely ossified; it is less so than the parieto-occipital suture which is not entirely closed. There exists a certain asymmetry in the osseous vault; the frontal eminence on the right side is more prominent than on the left. A more extended account of the investigation is promised in future.

On page 173, M. Maurel describes the pre-historic man of Guiana, and on page 186, the same author presents an anthropological and ethnographical study of two tribes of Indians, the Aracouyennes and the Galibis, living on the river Maroni, Guiana. On page 230, Dr. Broca speaks of the skulls and objects of industry found by M. Bert, Thiahuanuco, Peru. Dr. Maurel presents a communication, pp. 260 to 269 upon the frequency of dental caries among the Galibi Indians and their offsprings of mixed blood with the blacks.

The first number of Vol. III, Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, contains a very full report on the condition and progress of the institution during the year 1878. In the address of the retiring president, Dr. Farquharson, we have a review of the results attained concerning the celebrated inscribed tablets and the still more remarkable elephant pipe. With regard to the tablets the doctor remarks: "If there are now any doubters of the authenticity of these 'precious monuments,' as M. Lucien Adam is pleased to call them, they are silent, either from their doubts having been dispelled by the accumulation of material evidence, or it may be that they deem us so incorrigible in the continued fabrication of these relics that remonstrance would be wasted on us."

The academy has taken the lead in another branch of anthropology, which might be called the natural history of the heart or affections, and elected a lady, Mrs. Mary L. D. Putnam, to the presidential office for the ensuing year. Dr. Parry in making the nomination said: "It is quite unnecessary to explain to any here present that the actual success and present prosperity of the academy has been coincident with the interest taken in it by woman. The very ground beneath our feet is the spontaneous gift of a generous woman."

Dr. Edmund Andrews contributes to the Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy, a paper on the literature and religion of the mound-builders, in which he takes the ground that they are not extinct, as popularly supposed, but still exist among our Indian tribes.

In the same volume Dr. C. R. Hoy gives us a discussion upon the method by which the aborigines manufactured copper implements. The doctor takes the ground that none of these implements were cast, since the moulds were too difficult of management for the intelligence of American savages. "Copper is a refractory metal which melts at 2200 to 2600 degrees, a temperature that can be reached only in a furnace, assisted by some form of coal and an artificial blast. It is, when melted, thick and pasty, and without the addition of some other metal will not run in the cavities and sinuosities of the mould. A majority of the copper implements found have specks or points of pure silver over their surfaces; now one single speck of pure silver, visible even with the microscope, is positive evidence that the specimen was never melted." Dr. Hoy then proceeded to give his views of the methods of savage metallurgy. The Indians used fire in their mining operations. The vein rock was made hot by building a fire on or against it. Then by dashing water on the heated mass the rock would be fractured and removed, leaving ragged masses of copper exposed, which would also be softened so that it could be beaten into shape. When the metal became hard by pounding, it was again heated and plunged into water; for copper is, in this respect, the opposite of steel. In this way copper was fashioned simply by pounding.

In addition to the hammering process, cylindrical articles were evidently rolled between two flat rocks. Some of those implements that are supposed to have been cast were probably swedged; that is, a matrix was excavated in stone, into which the rudely fashioned copper was placed, and then by repeated blows the article was made to assume the exact shape of the mould. Besides this swedging process, Dr. Hoy is persuaded that in a few instances a complete mould was wrought out in halves on the face of two flat stones, so that by placing a suitable piece of copper between them and giving it repeated heavy blows the metal was made to fill the mould accurately. In order to test the matter the doctor constructed a mould of this description and was able to make a beautiful axe.

In the same volume of the Transactions, Dr. J. M. de Hart discusses the antiquities and platycnemism of the Mound-builders of Wisconsin.

Mr. Lester F. Ward sends us a pamphlet printed by Edward Stern & Co., of Philadelphia, containing his papers on Haeckel's Genesis of Man, which appeared in the April, May and July numbers of the *Penn Monthly* for 1877. As this celebrated work of the author has not yet been translated into English, Mr. Ward has done a useful thing in presenting the views of Prof. Haeckel in a clear and succinct manner.

## GEOLOGY AND PALÆONTOLOGY.

A Peculiar Cave in Utah.—The Oquirrh range of mountains, in Utah, extends northward as far as Great Salt lake and borders